and implements a common marketing strategy to the advantage of all subsidiaries.

Maternity leave for working Women

506. SHRI SATISH PRADMAN
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study sponsored by the National Commission for women, has recommended six months maternity leave twice in a career for working women;

(b) whether Government are considering a separate demand for three months paternity leave;

(c) if so. the details thereof; and

(d) the date by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In a study report on 'Working Women and their Family Perspectives' sponsored by the National Commission for Women, it had inter-alia been observed that it was necessary to modify certain service rules to enable working women to cope with the dual responsibilities of the home and the job. Accordingly, the study report had recommended that there was need to grant six months maternity leave (twice in a career) to ensure that mothers arc able to breast feed their children, since the first six month arc considered crucial for the child's growth.

(d) The conditions of service of Central Government employees are under consideration of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, which would also be looking into issues relating to leave including maternity leave for Central Government female employees. The recommendations of the Pay Commission in this regard are awaited.

Mysterious Disease in MP

507. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMUI1AJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANUIR SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether a huge number of children afflicted by mysterious disease died in parts of Madhya Pradesh particularly Balaghat district, in June this year; and

(b) if so, what were the main symptoms and manifestations of the disease and the number of children killed and which areas were afflicted by the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) According to National Institute of Communicable Desease Delhi 15 deaths were reported by the health authorities of District Balaghat. M.P. during May and June 1995 of which 10 deaths were in the age-group of less than 15 years. The symptoms and manifestations were of diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Wasteland in Uttar Pradesh

508. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the area of the wasteland in Uttar Pradesh on which plantation is possible; and

(b) the areas in the State in which plantation was done under the forests plantation programme during the previous three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) Department of Wastelands Development has commissioned National Wastelands